



PEEL WEEKLY NEWS

Week of Mar. 7, 2018

MISSISSAUGA | BRAMPTON | CALEDON



Toronto man arrested in connection with Peel's fifth homicide of 2018

by Alex Gregory



39 year-old Joseph Chang (right) is in custody after being arrested in connection with the murder of a 25 year-old Mississauga woman on Monday. (File Photo/Photo Courtesy of Peel Police)

A 39 year-old Toronto man is in custody in connection with the death of a Mississauga woman earlier this week, in the region's fifth homicide case so far this year.

Police responded to reports of a shooting early Monday morning in the Rathburn Road and discovered 25 year-old Alicia Lewandowski, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Peel's Homicide and Missing

Persons Bureau subsequently launched an investigation with the help of Toronto Police to find Lewandowski's boyfriend, Joseph Chang.

Chang was arrested late Monday evening and subsequently transported back to Peel for processing and sentencing.

He is charged with first-degree murder, and was held pending a bail hearing in Brampton court late Tuesday afternoon.

Residents who have additional information regarding the case are asked to call Peel Police's Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau at (905) 453-2121, ext. 3205.

Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or by visiting www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.

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The Candidates



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Doug Ford



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Tanya Granic Allen

Four Candidates Vie for Leadership of Progressive-Conservative Party

This week, delegates and supporters from across the country will attend a leadership conference in Markham, ON, where they will choose the new leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party will choose its new leader. That person will lead the PC's into the next Provincial election, which is only 90 days away.

Christine Elliott and Doug Ford appear to be the top two candidates leading up to this weekend's decision. Both have been campaigning hard, with Christine Elliott making a few appearance in Peel over the past week, while Doug Ford was interviewed by Peel Weekly News last week.

Ontario is now in its 15th year of the Liberal party running this province.

The Challenge for the new PC leader is how quick they can unite the party and take a run at the Liberals.

Firming up policies and getting the house in order will be no easy task, as they try to put the Patrick Brown debacle behind

them before the Jun. 7 election.

Convincing the voting public of Ontario to make the change will be tough...or will it?

Thoughts range from the Liberals being destroyed to them holding on to power, election bantering by both the PC's and the NDP almost certainly targeting many of the Liberals policies.

The Liberals are certainly not interested in giving up power. With a whole slew of election promises in view, we are sure to see many more announcements unveiled over the next 90 days.

Regular Ontarians have been questioning decisions made by the Liberals for years, with criticism peaking on several topics, but it can also be said that any government that holds power for a long time becomes complacent. The Liberals does have 15 years of experience running the affairs of the province.

The question to be asked is: how quick can a new government get a good hold on all the facets of running the government, the economy, job creation,

the set-up and running of all the ministries, as well as the new threats to Ontario by the Trump administration?

There is a third element to this coming election - the NDP. Andrea Horwath will have lots to say about the future of Ontario with the possibility of the NDP becoming the new opposition for the next four years.

It seems everyone has an opinion of all three parties. Good or bad, let's not forget that this is your time to make the decision on who you want to run our province for the next four years.

As Ontario residents, we all need to take stock of who we feel can best run our government.

Democracy is always at its finest come election time. Peel Weekly News will bring you accurate coverage, reports, a list of all the various incumbent MPP's in Peel and their ridings, along with the names and bio's of any challengers to their seat.

The next 3 months will be worth watching and keeping our eyes on the prize.



Photo Courtesy of TVO/Twitter

Live in an older house? Get a free lead test and flush your pipes

by Heather Doyle

If you live in a building built before 1960 there is a good chance lead was used in your plumbing system.

Lead was seen as an ideal product for pipes for decades because it was durable yet malleable. We now know it's poisonous even in small amounts and should be avoided, especially by pregnant women and young children.

So what to do if you live in an older house and suspect you might have lead pipes?

A good place to start is a free lead test by the Peel Region Public Health Department. It's a 45-minute test done by an accredited lab, and results are sent directly to you.

"The Region of Peel welcomes the public to participate in our lead testing program, as results of this program also aid in the asset management and water main renewal initiatives," states the Region of Peel website.

Specifically, the Region is looking for "homes and businesses that were built prior to 1960, have plumbing connected to or suspected to be connected to lead service pipes, may have lead plumbing...and pipes with lead solder."

The 2017 Water Report shows that the quality Region of Peel's drinking water overall is excellent, with levels of lead in the municipal water so low they cannot be detected (below 0.44 parts per billion).

The issue is water sitting for long periods of time in systems where lead was used for plumbing, fittings and solder may cause the lead to dissolve.

The Region notes that the homeowner's lead tests consistently meet provincial and federal standards. In the rare case test results do indicate lead above the Provincial Level, the Region of Peel will replace the pipe from the outside shutoff valve to

the water main free of charge.

If the lead is found on the homeowner's side, which starts at the water shutoff valve in the front of the house, the optional replacement of pipes and fixtures would be the owner's cost.

Water filters are also an option.

If you live in an older home, even one built before 1990 the Region's Facts about Lead in Drinking Water pamphlet recommends homeowners to "flush their water before drinking, regardless of how long it has been since water was used in the home."

These recommendations have been in place for at least 10 years.

"It is recommended to run the drinking water supplies until the water feels cold to the touch," continues the brochure, noting this could be "anywhere from 15 seconds to two or more minutes."

Those returning after long periods of time should do a thorough flush of the system. This would remove any

lead that might have dissolved into the system.

Houses or buildings built after 1990 should have lead-

free pipes and solder and do not need to flush their water.



Homes and businesses in Peel that were built before 1960 may have lead plumbing and pipes that have lead solder within, Peel Public Health has said. (Photo Courtesy of Pixabay)

SHIP offers low-income internet to Peel residents

by Alex Gregory

Residents in low-income housing projects and co-ops within Peel will soon have more affordable access to internet services, via an expanded program offered by one of the country's largest communications companies.

Rogers announced Tuesday afternoon that it has partnered with SHIP (Services and Housing in the Province) to deliver affordable internet services to more than 200 housing partners via the Connected for Success Program.

The program, which is in its fifth year, previously offered low-cost internet services to 12,000 households within Peel Region.

The new partnership and expanded profile now means more than 150,000 households within Peel are eligible to benefit from the program.

SHIP CEO Laurie Ridler said that the organization

wanted to give tenants a more affordable way to connect with support personnel, family and friends, and be able to access online resources more easily.

"Staying connected to the world and being able to connect with people will always improve the quality of life for all," said Ridler, who was joined by Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey and Ward 3 & 4 Councillor Martin Medeiros during the press conference.

Since launching, the program has offered subsidized internet to qualifying residents for \$10 per month. While the data cap was originally set at 30 gigabytes per month, Rogers announced today that they would be increasing the cap for current and future participants in the program to 100 gigabytes per month.

Having access to the inter-

net is not a luxury, but an absolute necessity, said Rogers corporate responsibility senior director Peter King.

"Our world has only become more digital ... for us, this is about investing in our communities and helping Canadians connect with their families, friends, and the digital economy," he said.

Affordable internet access will also ensure that residents stay connected with their families, school, work and all other online resources, said Jeffrey. "In this digital age, access to internet is key in ensuring that all our residents stay integrated with their community in Brampton and the Peel, allowing them a better chance to succeed."

The program doesn't require qualifying residents to sign a contract or credit check is required upon signing up.

Eligible participants can call

1-866-689-0758 for more information.

For more information on the program, including a list

of housing partners in Peel, visit about.rogers.com.



Mayor Linda Jeffrey speaks to community advocates during a launch event for Rogers' Connected for Success program at Nance Harwood Place in Brampton on Mar. 6, 2018 (Submitted Photo)



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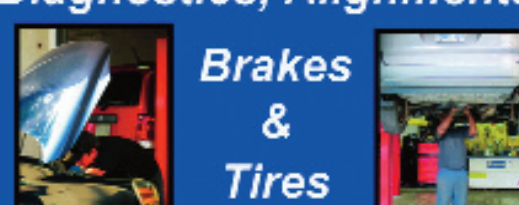
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Cleanup continues after raging fire in Streetsville

Investigators have concluded their search of a four-storey condominium in the heart of Streetsville that erupted in fire late last week.

Firefighters were called to the Tannery Street and Joymar Drive area late Friday evening and discovered the condominium, which was not occupied due to being under construction, and worked to contain the quickly-spreading fire.

The blaze caused minor damage to nearby buildings, forcing residents on the south side of Tannery to be evacuated. A firefighter suffered a minor injury unrelated to the fire.

According to Mississauga, the fire was vulnerable to fire due to having a wood frame as a result of the construction process.

Mississauga Fire Chief Tim Beckett released a statement late Monday noting that the Ontario Fire Marshal's office had concluded their investigation into the blaze, though the cause will not be officially known for some time.

"It may be several months until we receive their official



The remains of a building that burst into flames late Friday night near the corner of Joymar Drive and Tannery Street in Mississauga. Firefighters spent 17 hours battling the blaze, which damaged windows at a nearby retirement residence. (Photo by Heather Doyle)

report," said Beckett.

The nearby Credit River Retirement Residence on Rutledge Road suffered cracked windows as a result

of the blaze, but no damage was sustained to the interior of the building and no occupants were injured. Family members were finally able

to visit the residents inside until Monday morning.

Tannery Street has since re-opened to both vehicle and foot traffic, though Rut-

ledge Road remains closed to vehicles.

MPs talk gender equality during campaign stop

by Alex Gregory

Equal pay, child care duties and encouraging females to take more leadership roles were some of the topics that were front and center during a recent event in Brampton last week.

Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, was in town with other MPs on Friday to announce a new federal employment insurance (EI) parental sharing benefit.

The new benefit encourages both parents in two-parent families to share the raising of their children equally, incentivizing it by offering five additional weeks of leave to those who participate.

"Promoting a more equal share of parenting duties so that more women can succeed in the workforce isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do," said Hajdu. "Our economy depends on it."

According to Hajdu, the benefit announcement is part of a federal commit-

ment to close the gender wage gap in the country. She said that the government recognizes that the wage gap has been partially caused by women taking on a disproportionate amount of caregiving duties.

"The gender wage gap in Canada has always persisted partly thanks to the fact that caregiving duties have historically fallen primarily to women," said Hajdu, pointing out that a shift to equal parenting is part of a larger suite of policy tools the Feds are creating, including proactive pay equity, investing more into childcare and early learning services and appointment skilled women to key leadership positions.

Brampton-East MP Raj Grewal, who also attended the event, said that gender equality has already been talked about enough and the time has come for action.

"We are committed to moving forward in supporting gender equality at home and at the workplace. The EI sharing benefit is just one of many ways our gov-

ernment is working to improve opportunities for women and support the middle class," Grewal said.

According to a fact sheet released by the Federal government late last year, the pay equity setup will affect roughly 1.2 million individuals in Canada, and is intended to include "strong oversight and management,

require regular maintenance and take an innovative approach to ensure that women and men receive the same pay for work of equal value."

The parental benefit will directly impact thousands of young families living in Brampton, said Mayor Linda Jeffrey, who was also on-hand at the event.

She said that the early days of childhood are the most important, and that families should be able to focus on their children without worrying about finances and work.

"Raising kids is a shared responsibility, and it's time our parental benefits reflected that," she said.



Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, speaks with a group of families alongside other guests during a campaign stop in Brampton on Mar. 5, 2018. (Submitted Photo)

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Share Your Long-Term Care Stories With Us

 **Sylvia Jones MPP**
Dufferin-Caledon
Weekly Column

After 14 years of inadequate funding for home care and long-term care, I regularly hear from residents of Dufferin-Caledon who are seeking help in either finding a bed in a long-term-care home or accessing a personal support worker.

Last week, I asked the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care about the story of a local family whose father was forced to go to London to find a long-term care placement, three hours away from his friends and family.

Stories like this are far too common and many others residents tell me that the government has failed to provide the service that families and seniors deserve.

Seniors are the fastest growing demographic in Canada and Statistics Canada shows that seniors will make up 23 percent of the population within the next 15 years.



The Avalon Care Centre in Orangeville. (Photo Courtesy of Jarrette Health)

Caring for our seniors through long-term care homes is something the government should take pride in, yet wait times for long-term care in Ontario continue to grow. 30,000 seniors are waiting for access to a long-term care bed, and the list is expected to grow to 50,000 people in

the next six years.

In our community, there are over 800 people on the waitlist for long-term care beds. Also, 30,000 of the province's long-term care beds have not been rebuilt to modern standards.

In Nov. 2017, the Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) re-

leased statistics on the average wait time to find a placement in long-term-care facilities in Dufferin-Caledon.

According to Central West LHIN, the Avalon Retirement Centre's waiting list is 360 days. Dufferin Oaks Home waiting list is 481 days. King Nursing Home

has a 348-day wait. Shelburne Residence is 352 days and Vera M. Davis stands at 662 days.

The consequence of the long waitlist put incredible stress on family members who are trying to find a placement for their loved one.

The Independent non-

partisan Auditor General's 2015 report that for every dollar that is supposed to be spent on home care, 39 cents goes to administration instead of front-line services.

The shortage in long-term-care creates a backlog in our hospitals as individuals who should be in a long-term care facility are forced to stay in a hospital bed until a long-term care bed becomes available.

The Liberal government has failed to adequately invest in long-term care, leaving hundreds of seniors behind.

More needs to be done to build long-term care beds and improve home care in the province of Ontario.

If your family is frustrated finding care for your loved one, please contract my office at (519) 941-7751 or email me at sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org.

Sylvia Jones is the Member of Provincial Parliament for the Dufferin-Caledon area.

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Peel School Board asks for input on 2018-19 Budget

Peel District School Board is looking to outside support from the community to help shape its budget for the coming school year.

The board's trustees are seeking input from staff, parents, students and community members regarding what they want to see as budget priorities.

"The Peel board has a long history of fiscal responsibility, focused on a mission to inspire success, confidence and hope in each student," said PDSB chair Janet McDougald in a statement Monday evening.

"Through the effective use of resources to enhance student achievement, the board is able support the needs of all learners in an efficient and sustainable manner."

Input will be collected through a School Council consultation process, delegations and an online survey.

Those wishing to provide input can delegate the board during the Mar. 27, Apr. 10/24 or May 8 regular meetings. Those wishing to present to trustees must call the Director's Office at

(905) 890-1010 and complete a registration form.

Parents/guardians can also provide input by completing a survey on the Peel District website (www.peelschools.org/budget) by Mar. 31, or by contacting their School Council chair regarding budget consultations.

Approximately 95 per cent of the Peel board's revenue is provided through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding program offered by the Ministry of Education, said

McDougald, and that the majority of funding must be used for its intended purpose.

"(The program) is based on enrolment and the specific needs of students in each school board," she said. "There are, however, areas of the budget where input can be sought. This is where our communities' input comes in."

More information and additional resources are available to view online at www.peelschools.org/budget.



Warrant out for Mississauga robber

by Alex Gregory

21 Division's Central Investigation Bureau is requesting the public's help to located a male wanted in connection with the theft of firearms from a Mississauga home last week.

Officers were tipped off to a suspicious vehicle in the Harwick and Morning Star Drive area on Mar. 1 around 2:20 p.m.

While investigating the vehicle, a male suspect was seen fleeing on foot from the area, discarding a 9mm FNX-9 handgun in the process.

Investigators subsequently combed the area and discovered a fully-loaded Walther 9mm handgun along with extra ammunition.

22 year-old Fernanda Martinez-Argueta, from Mississauga, was subsequently arrested and charged in Brampton court with multiple counts, including unauthorized possession of a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon and careless storage of ammunition.

A warrant is also out for 23 year-old Trevell Rumbaki, who is chaged with similar offenses. He is described as a 6'1" multi-racial male, with medium complexion, a thin build, straight black hair,

thin mustache, scraggly black beard and brown eyes.

Witnesses who may have seen Rumbaki or know anything about the incident are asked to call 21 Division at at (905) 453-2121, ext. 2133.

Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or by visiting www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.



Trevell Rumbaki (Photo Courtesy of Peel Police)

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ONTARIO NDP

Possible Opposition?

Keep Your Loblaw Gift Card, Donate Cash to the Food Bank Instead

by **Meghan Nicholls**

At the height of discussion surrounding Loblaw's price fixing, one of the top trending hashtags in Twitter became #breadforfoodbanks; an online movement encouraging eligible Canadians to sign up for the \$25 grocery gift cards and then donate them to local food banks.

While this gesture highlights the generous spirit of Canadians, there's a more effective way to channel this impact of this rebate program.

Instead of mailing the gift card to your local food bank, we encourage you to spend the \$25 gift card on your own groceries and donate \$25 cash.

Why?

Because food banks purchase food in large quantities at wholesale rates. So when you donate cash instead of the card, you are contributing to higher purchasing power, food rescue efforts, and ensuring the food bank can get the best value per donated dollar.

Which means in the long run, the same amount of money is making a much bigger impact.

ger impact.

Meghan Nicholls is the Interim Executive Director for the Mississauga Food Bank, which distributes more than

2.9 million meals per year through its network of 50 member agencies, including neighbourhood food banks, hot meal programs and breakfast clubs.



New PRESTO Stations Coming to Peel Region

Commuters using PRESTO passes will be able to top up their cards at additional locations in Mississauga and Brampton this June.

The province announced Monday morning that Metrolinx will be bringing PRESTO payment stations to more than 400 additional Shoppers Drug Mart locations across the GTA this spring, building on a successful launch at Toronto locations last year. Metrolinx CEO Phil Verster was on hand to make the announcement, saying that the addition to their retail network is giving riders more options than ever before.

"We're moving towards

our goal of making transit a more convenient and accessible choice for everyone," he said during a press conference in Richmond Hill on Monday.

Once complete, there will be nearly 400 additional Shoppers Drug Mart locations across the GTHA where commuters can buy, load and set discounts on their PRESTO cards.

The PRESTO program allows riders to use one fare on 11 different transit systems throughout Ontario, including MiWay and Brampton Transit. More than 3.6 million PRESTO cards have been activated since the program launched.

More than half of the locations are expected to be online by August. A second phase will bring services to all remaining locations across all participating municipalities.

The announcement comes amid the run-up to October's provincial campaign, with the province banking on incentives including free tuition for hundreds of thousands of students, affordable child care programs and free prescription drugs for residents under the age of 25.

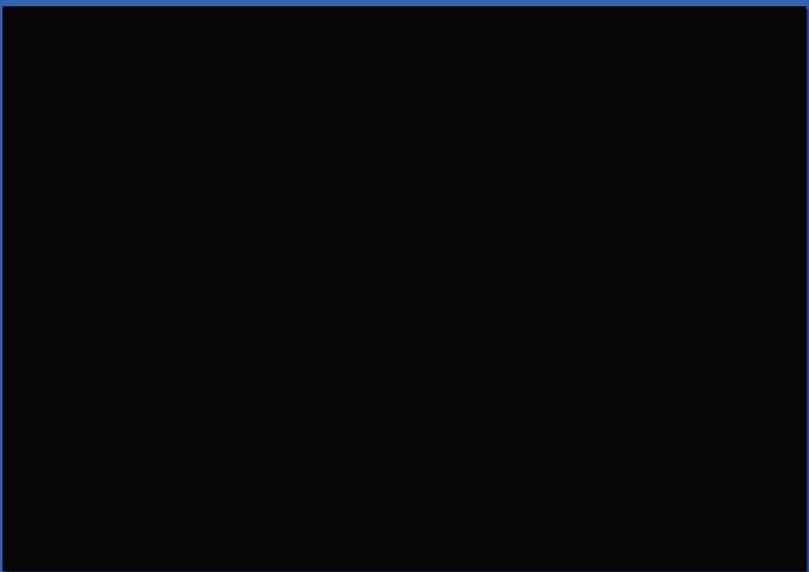
Shoppers Drug Mart senior director Ken Kirkwood said that the chain helps customers who want to save more time during their commute.

"(This) brings more convenience to more customers in the province," he said.

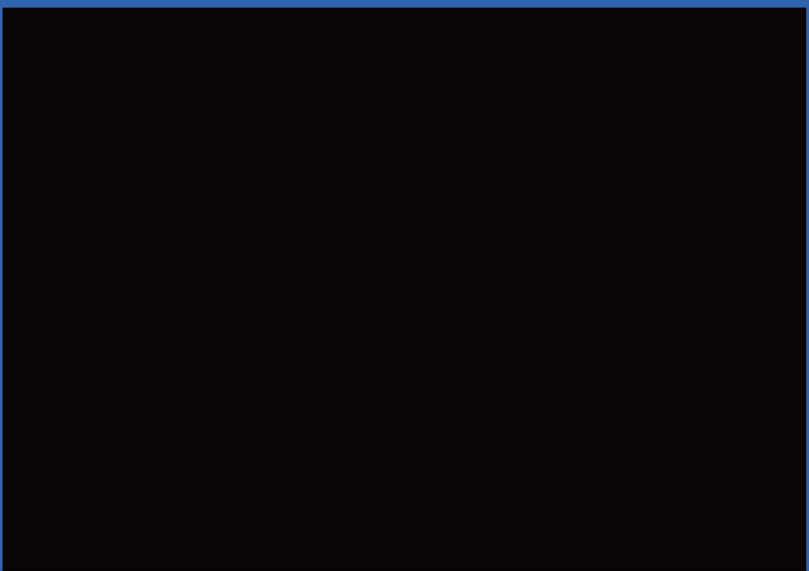
A list of participating retail outlets can be accessed on the PRESTO website at www.presto-card.ca.



A great resource for any budding entrepreneur in Peel



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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS BUSINESS

Brampton replaces contractor on Gore Meadows reconstruction

by Alex Gregory

A contracted construction company is no longer involved with the Gore Meadows expansion project, according to the City of Brampton.

The move was announced Tuesday morning by the City, who released a statement explaining that delays on the project have been "unreasonable" and that they've terminated the construction company's right to work on the property, effective immediately.

"The City of Brampton recognizes the importance of the Gore Meadows expansion to the community and has set a priority to finish construction as soon

as possible," a statement from the city's communications department said, explaining that they've taken every step possible to push for a timely completion for the project, which is intended to include a fitness centre with an indoor track, outdoor skating rink, spray pad and aquatics facility.

"(We are) taking steps to complete the project as quickly and efficiently as possible to get this facility open to the public at the earliest opportunity," the City said.

In 2015, Forma-Con Construction was fined \$385,000 for failing to take precautions related to

an unsafe crane, which caused the death of a 40 year-old worker from Aurora.

The decision is not expected to impact users at the community centre and library, and all programming is expected to proceed normally. An anticipated opening date is expected to be announced by the City within the next few weeks.

"(We) apologize for the inconvenience caused by the delays at Gore Meadows and appreciates the patience the community has shown," a City representative said.



New diabetes drug released for wide use by Mississauga health company



Pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk announced Tuesday morning that the Type-2 diabetes drug Ozempic is now available to purchase throughout Canada.

Previously tested in clinical trials through the SUS-

TAIN program, the product is intended to improve glycemic control in adults with Type-2 diabetes, and can also be used with other medications when diet and exercise are no longer enough.

It is very important that people with diabetes have solutions that address blood sugar control and reduce the risk of complications, said Diabetes Canada president Dr. Jan Hux.

"Type 2 diabetes is a com-

plex and chronic condition," she said. "Without adequate control, blood sugar levels remain high and are associated with elevated risks of complications such as stroke and heart attack."

According to head-to-

head trials conducted via the the SUSTAIN program, Ozempic consistently demonstrated better blood sugar control when tested against all comparators, including all available once-weekly treatments.

The drug helped up to 79 per cent of patients with type 2 diabetes reach their blood sugar targets, as well as helping users receive clinically significant weight loss of up to 14 lbs.

Ozempic has an established cardiovascular safety profile, said Novo's medical affairs director, Stephane Krummen. "No increased risk of major adverse cardiovascular events was seen with Ozempic. In SUSTAIN 6, (it) reduced the risk of cardiovascular death, non-fatal heart attacks, and non-fatal strokes by 26 per cent

versus placebo; with standard of care."

Ozempic will be available in a prefilled pen, based on the latest generation of Novo Nordisk prefilled devices.

Novo Nordisk, which has an office located on Sky-mark Ave. in Mississauga, employs approximately 41,700 in 77 countries, and markets its products in over 165 countries.

The company, which is head has developed and released drugs that address obesity, haemophilia, growth disorders and other serious chronic diseases. Headquartered in Denmark, Novo Nordisk employs approximately 41,700 people in 77 countries and markets its products in more than 165 countries.

In 2003, the Liberals took power...is their time up?

LIBERAL ONTARIO

Are the PC's ready to rule?

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2018 Provincial Election coverage here...Soon.

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PEEL WEEKLY NEWS SPORTS

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Three home games critical for Raptors 905 chance to repeat championship run

by Heather Doyle

Repeating a championship is never easy.

When your key players are called away to play in the NBA on short notice, and you have pretty much a new

roster every year, the G League has added challenges.

Despite all this, the Raptors 905 are in a position to make it happen.



The next three home games are crunch time. So if you are looking for exciting basketball, you might want to get yourself to the Hershey Centre in Mississauga on Saturday, Mar. 10, Tuesday, Mar. 13 and Saturday, Mar. 24.

Currently, the 905 sit second behind the Westchester Knicks in the Atlantic Division. A new format this year sees the top teams from each of the six divisions advance, plus the next top three teams from each conference based on the regular season record.

If the Raptors 905 finish behind the Westchester Knicks, who currently have the League's best record, they will have to play a one-and-done in the first round of the playoffs. As two of the strongest G League teams in the East, it's possible the Raptors 905 and the Knicks will duke it out for the East-

ern Conference title.

On Saturday, the 905 had a blowout road win against the Wisconsin Herd which is the affiliate of the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Raptors 905, coached by 2016-17 Coach of the Year Jerry Stackhouse, are defensive specialists, holding the best defensive rating in the league.

But they can bring it offensively too with the team scoring 68 points in a strong second half against the Herd.

This season has been something of a rollercoaster. The Raptors 905 started off slowly with a 4-9 record, and then went on to a 10-0 run before a loss to Sioux Falls Skyforce by a point ended the streak.

Their record now stands at 25-17 which (at press time) puts them second in the Eastern Conference. The

three home games and four away games could make or break their hold on a playoff position.

The G League, formerly the Development League or D League, has a new handle this year based on Gatorade's sponsorship but continues to offer fans the fun and excitement of professional basketball games at a reasonable cost.

As more NBA teams add affiliate teams, the G League is increasingly an alternative to the NCAA college route which has come under fire lately for making millions of dollars from games but preventing athletes from sharing any revenue.

With the G League players are paid to play and stay ready for their shot at the NBA.

Having an affiliate team down the road has benefited the Toronto Raptors as the

Raptors 905 coaches can run the same plays, and players can be called up on short notice.

For Raptors fans it can be fun to get familiar with up-and-coming players.

This year's fast-paced and high-scoring Bench Mob for the Toronto Raptors consisting of Pascal Siakam, Fred vanVleet, Jakob Poeltl, Delon Wright, Norm Powell, and Lucas Nogueira all played together in the 905 last year.

This past Sunday the 905's Malcolm Miller got the call to start for the Raptors, replacing injured rookie OG Anunoby.

And Lorenzo Brown, who is now out with an injury, played in a record four double-headers with the 905 and the Raptors this year. Brown averages 9.1 assists per game, putting him second in the G-League.

Brampton Cycling Club Ready to Roll for Another Season

by Heather Doyle

The Brampton Cycling Club (BCC) is gearing up for another season.

One of the region's largest and most established road cycling clubs, the Brampton Cycling Club dubs itself as catering to "those who are semi-serious to very serious about their riding, but not so serious we don't have a great time on our rides."

But what are the benefits of riding in a group?

First and foremost, says BCC President John Bachmann, "riding with a group is safer. We share country roads with cars and in a group you are much more visible to motorists. You're also safer because, if you have a problem such as a flat tire, you've got some very experienced rides with you to help you out."

Another benefit, says Bachmann, is the ability to draft.

"The shelter you get riding in a group allows you to go further than you can on your own. This exposes you to new roads and towns."

And finally, adds Bachmann: "Riding in a group is a great way to make new friends and enjoy time with interesting club mates. Half-way stops at bakeries and coffee shops in many of the small towns that surround the GTA are a highlight of our rides."

BCC membership is \$80 for the year, which includes Ontario Cycling Association insurance.

The BCC has five speed and distance groups to fit every pair of legs and lungs plus a variety of social events. Local rides are scheduled five days a week, starting from various sites across the Western GTA.

Age is not a barrier, with Club riders ranging from the

20s to the mid-80s.

While it might look intimidating to see a group of riders whizz by in a blur of Lycra, the BCC is a great way to explore whether or the sport is for you.

"You don't have to have a super light \$5000 road bike to join," says Bachmann.

"Many of our riders started with our Beginner group riding a hybrid bike but, regardless of what kind of bike you have, you do need to be able to average at least 20 km/h over a distance of 50 km. Anyone who can cover that distance at that pace will find riding with our club a very pleasant experience."

Unlike some cycling clubs, the BCC has a friendly 'no-drop' policy that gets riders who have picked the wrong group or are having a bad day safely back to the start.

Bachmann adds the Bramp-



ton Cycling Club is known for its well organized rides, the emphasis on safety, and for having very experienced tour

leaders.

Another plus adds Bachmann, is the "fabulous website that keeps everyone informed

about upcoming events and offers a wealth of information to new riders."



Exciting Junior Hockey - Friday Mar 9, 7:00 pm

vs Oshawa

at the Hershey Centre

for tickets: mississaugasteelheads.com

Mississauga Continues To Keep Playoff Hopes Alive As Six Games Remain

by **Brendan Lang**

Mississauga came into the week with only two games on their schedule and continuing to stick around at the bottom of the OHL's playoff picture.

The first of two contests was played at the Hershey Centre against the North Bay Battalion on Friday night.

The game began with the Steelheads winning the opening faceoff and controlling the majority of the early part of this one. Battalion goalie Christian Propp and Steelheads net minder Jacob Ingham both played spectacular to keep their respective teams in the game.

At 16:42 in the first period, the Steelheads went on the powerplay and didn't fail to capitalize as a great passing play from Ryan McLeod and Albert Michnac set up Nicholas Hague. As the period came to an end, North Bay had a slight advantage in the shot column outshooting Mississauga 14-11.

As both teams came out flying to start the second, the intensity ramped up and North Bay got on the board scoring at 16:55. Shortly after they tacked on one more to take a 2-1 lead.

With time winding down, it looked as if Mississauga had scored on the powerplay, but it was for not as the play went under review and resulted in no goal. The frame ended at 2-1 for the Battalion.

It was late into the third and still the Trout trailed by just one as they pulled Ingham for the extra attacker. There was a scramble in front of the Battalion net to end the game, but Mississauga couldn't slide one home and they fell to North Bay 2-1.

The Fish looked to redeem themselves after a day off as they were back in action Sunday. They would look to beat the Erie Otters at home in the Hershey Centre.

The scoring opened quickly for the Otters, and the Steelheads found themselves down early. The score would stick there to end the stanza, but Mississauga was heavily outshooting Erie 15-6.

Erie put another goal up in the second and the Steelheads quickly found themselves with an uphill battle ahead of them. Owen Tippet responded for the Trout with his 31st of the year.

Tippet would add another

soon after for his second of the game and the score was back to even. Cole Carter was next in line for the Steelheads as he gave them the lead. Mike McLeod would add one more before the period concluded to give them a two goal advantage.

In the third, Erie would be kept off the score sheet as Mississauga added three more tallies on goals from Michael Little, Nicholas Hague and Owen Tippet with his third of the game to complete the hat trick. Mississauga took the win by a

convincing 7-2 score.

The Steelheads continue to hold onto the Eighth and final playoff spot as they inch closer to the end of the regular season.

The team will also be holding a meet-and-greet event this Saturday, Mar. 10 at Sunnyside Grill in Clarkson (1375 Southdown Road).

Emanuel Vella, Nic Hague, Owen Tippet and Mikey McLeod will all be on-hand to sign autographs and meet fans. The event kicks off at 9 a.m.



Hometown Hockey Takes Over Brampton This Weekend

Downtown Brampton will be ground zero for the hockey faithful this weekend as Rogers Hometown Hockey hits town on Saturday - but you don't have to wait to start the action.

The festivities kick off this afternoon, as the Stanley Cup will be on display in Garden Square from 1 - 2:30 p.m. See the Cup up close and get your picture taken with it.

The two-day hockey festival begins on Saturday at noon, and will conclude Sunday evening following the Rogers Hometown Hockey outdoor viewing party.

Saturday brings the main attraction, as hosts Ron MacLean and Tara Stone will helm a pre-game show before a match between the Calgary Flames and New York Islanders, along with appearances of NHL alumni in Garden Square, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Darryl Sittler, Rick Vaive and Wendel Clark

will also be on-hand for a meet-and-greet with fans in the afternoon, alongside live local entertainment and engaging activities for the whole family.

In addition, the Hockey Night In Canada: Punjabi Edition broadcast team will be on-site on Sunday as part of the weekend festivities.

Main Street North (from Queen Street to Theatre Lane) will be closed from Mar. 8 at 9 a.m. until Monday, Mar. 12 at 5 a.m.

Multiple streets will be closed from Saturday morning at 10 a.m. until Monday, Mar. 12 at 12 a.m., including

Queen Street East (from George Street to Main Street), Queen Street West (from Main Street to Chapel Street) and Main Street South (from Queen Street to Wellington Street).

For more information, visit www.hometownhockey.com.

Beast Fight Hard But Lose In Shootout To Walleye

by **Benedict Rhodes**

The Brampton Beast battled hard on Sunday afternoon, but only managed to pick up a single point as they fell in a shootout to the Toledo Walleye.

The first period at the Powerade Centre was dominated by the Beast, as they out-shot their opponents 15-4, but the period ended 1-1.

Jeff King scored Brampton's goal, sliding the puck into the net of Angus Red-

mond at the 5:43 mark. Mike Borkowski replied for the Walleye at 18:00, beating Beast goalie Chris Driedger.

The Beast continued to dominate the shots category but they couldn't find the back of the net again, and the next two periods were goal-less.

The score was 1-1 after regulation time and overtime was needed to decide the winner. Brampton's Chris Lev-

eille had a chance to win the game but Angus Redmond turned away the breakaway opportunity.

In the shootout, Redmond stopped shots from Jeff King, Chris Leveille and Vincent Dunn, earning his side the 2-1 victory.

The Beast next play tomorrow night (Mar. 8), when they host the Reading Royals at 11 a.m.



De Rosario Back On Deck as CASA Hosts Brazil at Hershey Centre

Former Canadian soccer legend Dwayne De Rosario is stepping out of retirement and back into the familiar soccer cleats to lead the Canada's National Team as they face off in a friendly match against the Brazilian National Team next Thursday at the Hershey Centre.

The Mar. 15 match is the Canadian team's second-ever match, following an inaugural friendly match against Mexico in Oct. 2017.

De Rosario said earlier this week that he wanted an opportunity to play again and has been privately training for the comeback, having honed his training regimen overseas in Dubai.

"I liked how the arena game was presented to me and I wanted to see how the game runs," he said during an interview on the TV show *Inside the APL*.

"This game comes at a good time, first and foremost for me, and it comes at a time when I was wanting to get back out there."

Besides being a four-time Major League Soccer Cup winner and MLS MVP in 2011, De Rosario is a veteran of in-

ternational play, having suited up for Canada 81 times and scoring 22 goals during his stellar 17-year international career. He said he is eager to resume a professional career that ended in 2015 with his hometown club, reigning MLS Cup champions Toronto FC.

"I want to play again because of my love and passion for the sport," stated De Rosario.

De Rosario and the Canadian team will be facing off against a star-studded Brazilian squad, led by well-known striker Amauri Carvalho de Oliveira, who played 16 sea-

sons in Italian top flight as well as two seasons in the North American Soccer League, playing for the New York Cosmos and Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

With all the talent and experience on display for Brazil, Canada will have its hands full with the experienced and talented Brazilian team, but De Rosario said that the team will be looking forward to the face-off in ten days.

The game starts at 7 p.m. at the Hershey Centre. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster or by visiting www.casasoccer.ca.



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LIFESTYLE / AROUND TOWN

Local Champions Honored During United Way's Celebration Gala

The region's most successful fundraisers were honored Thursday night during a celebration gala held by United Way of Peel Region.

More than 450 community advocates, funders, corporate sponsors and dignitaries packed into the Mississauga Convention Centre to honor efforts to fight poverty within Brampton, Caledon and local neighbourhoods.

Key fundraisers and corporate sponsors were honored with a series of awards given by the community organization, which is going into the last month of its fundraising campaign and lauded the efforts of the community to support anti-poverty efforts.

"We want to ensure that everyone gets the support they need, that they feel safe, and they belong in the community," said board chair Tom Dyck, who spoke during the event.

The organization is grateful for the agencies and businesses that come together each year to affect change and help combat the social issues facing all three areas, said Dyck, whose sentiments were echoed by Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson.

"It's more important than ever before that Peel's voice is heard," Thompson said.

The gala took place just a month before the merger between the Peel Region and Toronto & York United Way branches merge, in an effort to help drive regional efforts and raise more funds for local work.

Interim Peel Region CEO Anita Stellinga said that the region's needs continue to be pressing, pointing to the increased need for social and community services in all three areas.

Although the merger will soon become official, it won't mean that the agency's focus will change, she said. "We will always have a United Way in Peel ... we're on a mission to help everyone."

Winners at the ceremony were chosen by a campaign committee featuring representatives from Peel,

Toronto and York Region.

The City of Brampton Cares team took home honors for team fundraising during the Longest Night Peel event, where eighteen teams spent one night sleeping in subzero temperatures in order to raise money and get a better perspective on how poor and homeless residents face the elements.

Cherish de la Cruz from Master Lock Canada, Judy Labelle & Sandy Viana-Tavares from the Region of Peel, and Kylie MacInnis & Matthew Schurmann from Kimberly-Clark Canada each took home an Employee Campaign Chair of the Year award, which recognizes individuals who display best practices and creative leadership.

Express Scripts Canada took home the Leading the Way Campaign Award, which is given to a workplace campaign that conducted an exemplary Leadership Giving campaign.

Eaton Canada - Cooper Industries and CUPE branches at Peel District School Board both walked away with the Joint Union-Management Award, while the CIBC Dixie & Highway 7 branch took home the Bank Branch Campaign of the Year award for their local campaign.

Other awards included the Outstanding Agency Campaign Award being given to Indus Community Services and Polycultural Immigration & Community Services, while presenting sponsor Suncor Energy received the Outstanding Corporate Campaign award for their continuing efforts.

Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, who spoke at the event, said that it's important not to lose sight of the goal to help vulnerable residents and new immigrants, as they often need a lifeline to local communities.

"When we welcome the world to our doorstep, we have to help them succeed," she said.



Photos Courtesy of Herman Custodio

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Nominations Now Open for Mississauga’s 2018 Civic Awards of Recognition

Nominations are now open for the Mississauga’s 2018 Civic Awards of Recognition.

Local residents have until Apr. 30 to nominate outstanding individuals, community groups and businesses whose have achieved notable success in Mississauga.

This year, in addition to community volunteering and achievements in sports and the arts, the City will recognize two new groups of

nominees:

- Businesses, community groups or individuals who have consistently removed barriers for people with disabilities

- Youth ages 14 to 24 who volunteer for more than 100 hours in community and civic activities.

Residents who know an individual or an organization that qualifies are encouraged to visit the City’s website

at mississauga.ca/civicrecog-

niton, read the award criteria and fill out the online nomination form. The form can also be downloaded and submitted by email or mail.

The City will consider the first 100 nominees and review nominations on a first come, first served basis.

Nominees who qualify will be invited to receive their awards during a formal ceremony at the Mississauga Civic Centre on Tuesday, June 12, 2018.



Riverwood Hosts Exciting March Break Programs

The Riverwood Conservatory kicks off a week of free programs this March Break, with a number of activities geared towards the whole family.

The week kicks off with a series Party Safari Animal Meet & Greets at the Chappell House on Mar. 12. Children are invited to meet a crew of exotic and fantastic animals, including lizards, birds, snakes and more. Viewings will run at 10 and 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m.

Guided Nature Hikes will be held on Mar. 13 and 14, at 9:30

and 11 a.m., and 1 and 2 p.m., starting from MacEwan Field.

Celebrate spring’s arrival and the abundant wildlife of Mississauga with a guided nature hike through the beautiful trails of Riverwood.

Chappell House will host Canadian Animal Skulls on Mar. 15. Kids can learn about Canadian animal skulls in an interactive presentation helmed by Mark Mitro, and take place at 9:30 and 11 a.m., and 1 p.m.

All children must be accompanied by an adult and registration is required.

The Riverwood Conservancy is a volunteer-based not-for-profit that provides programming in conservation, gardening, environmental education and volunteerism to the Mississauga community.

The Riverwood Conservancy is located in Riverwood, a natural green space in the heart of the city [map] and is open 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily with free parking and admission.

For more information and to register for the March Break programs, visit: www.theriverwoodconservancy.org.



The Chappell House at Riverwood Conservancy. (PDN Staff Photo)



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Heritage Mississauga's Sunrise Ceremony



Heritage Mississauga will host their Spring Equinox Sunrise Ceremony on Sunday, Mar. 18 at the Robinson-Adamson House, led by Elder Mark A. Sault, a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. Sault previously worked in Thunder Bay with the Seven Generations Education Institute from 1990 to 2014, and learned teachings from the Elders of North Western Ontario. The free event begins at 6:15 a.m., with a fire-lighting at 6:30 a.m. and the ceremony at 6:45 a.m. Admission is free, and all are invited to attend. The Robinson-Adamson House is located at 1921 Dundas St. W. For more information, call Heritage Mississauga at (905) 828-8411, ext. 0 or email info@heritagemississauga.org. (Submitted Photo)

Plant a Tree This Spring - Caledon's Sapling Program Extended

The deadline to order a sapling as part of the Town of Caledon's Tree Seedling program has been extended to the end of March.

The program, which is now in its 15th year, gives local residents the chance to purchase native woody plant species for their properties.

The 2018 program provides residents with two tree options, including a bun-

dled coniferous tree seedlings (10 seedlings per bundle), and a deciduous potted stock.

The deadline for placing an order has been extended to Friday, Mar. 30, and can be ordered by visiting caledon.myshopify.com.

Stock is supplied on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Residents interested in obtaining trees are encouraged to submit orders and

appropriate payment as quickly as possible.

Sapling orders can be picked up on Saturday, May 5 from 8 - 11 a.m. at the Town's Public Works Yard 3, located at

More programs and services are offered in collaboration with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) Authority.



State-of-the-Art Blood Services Laboratory Opens in Brampton

by Alex Gregory

A state-of-the-art testing laboratory designed to increase productivity and lower operating costs in hospitals opened with a splashy grand opening last week in Brampton.

Canadian Blood Services officially opened a new testing laboratory last Friday, located at the east end of the city.

The 28,000 square-foot site is intended to centralize testing work and deliver better value to area hospitals and enhance the organization's capabilities as a biologics manufacturer, according to a statement.

Mayor Linda Jeffrey, who was on hand to celebrate the occasion with Councillor Jeff Bowman and Brampton-South MP Sonia Sidhu, congratulated the company and thanked them for investing in the area, noting that there is always a need for local residents to donate.

"When it comes to donating blood, I know the people of Brampton are always ready and willing to step up," she said.

The laboratory expansion adds an estimated 90 jobs to the 400 positions already filled at the company's Parkside Drive site, and represents a massive investment in the Brampton community, according to representatives.

The testing laboratory will be responsible for donor testing activities for the eastern half of Canada, representing 60 per cent of the country's donor testing.

Representatives from CBS said that blood testing improvements are valuable in the city's growing health and life sciences sector, and pointed to the city's economic development efforts, with dedicated resources and support to help drive growth and investment.

The city is also taking an active role building partnerships with health sector businesses, care providers and public sector organizations to facilitate employment and innovation, according to Bowman.

"(This) is great news for the City and for the organization," he said. "(Canadian

Blood Services) will benefit from Brampton's great location, access to transportation and infrastructure, and Brampton benefits from growth in a high-growth sector and new high-skilled jobs."

According to CBS staff, a key investment decision for the company was proximity to Pearson Airport and local highways, from which blood samples can be shipped quickly for testing and give faster turnaround time to deliver to hospitals.

The new testing laboratory also reduces costs for pickup of biomedical waste and decontamination.

"This is a strategic growth sector for us, and we look forward to working with them and other businesses, supporting strong partnerships in the health and life sciences sector as well as investment and expansion needs as we grow together," said Brampton Economic Development and Culture director Bob Darling.



Representatives from Canadian Blood Services speak to Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey, Councillor Jeff Bowman and Brampton-South MP Sonia Sidhu during a grand opening and tour on Friday, Mar. 2. (Submitted Photo)

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Workshops Are in Full Bloom at Brampton Entrepreneur Centre

Spring is here - and so are a number of upcoming workshops from the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre, including special events and webinars:

In Person Webinar: Achieve Your Business Goals as an Artist (Thursday, Mar. 8, 12 - 1:15 p.m.)

This webinar will help participants get organized and guide them with ways to prioritize so that their business thrives.

Viewers will learn why creating a plan is vital for any business and how it actually creates more freedom for you, how to make sure your goals or resolutions are realistic and executable in your day to day work, and how to deal with resistance to changing habits.

From Generation to Validation: Starting the Right Business (Monday, Mar. 12, 10 - 11:30 a.m.)

Join Prince Khan from the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre as he takes you through the journey of generating a great idea to successfully validating it.

Business Model Canvas (Tuesday, Mar. 13, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.)

The Business Model Canvas is a tool that will help entrepreneurs brainstorm a business idea and develop a value proposition. In this

seminar, participants will learn the steps to create their own business model canvas, develop value proposition and identify their ideal target market with market research.

Introduction to Financial Statements and Ratios (Friday, Mar. 16, 2 - 3:30 p.m.)

Learn about the importance of a Cash Flow Statement, Balance Sheet, Income Statement as well as ratios. Join Prince Khan from the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre as he takes participants through a customized financial template that they can take home after the workshop.

Webinar: Low Cost and No Cost Marketing Tools You Can Use to Grow Your Business (Monday, Mar. 19, 6 - 7 p.m.)

Learn how to develop simple and inexpensive marketing strategies for your business. Discussion topics will include basic marketing rules you need to know, how to identify your ideal target market and ways to engage them, how to identify your key differentiators, using effective online and offline marketing tools and more.

Brand your Business through LinkedIn (Wednesday, Mar. 21, 10 - 11:30 a.m.)

LinkedIn represents you,

your brand and what your business stands for. Join Prince Khan from the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre for this "LinkedIn for Small Business" session as he shows participants how to develop the perfect profile, create long-lasting business relationships and ways to leverage your personal brand to enhance your appeal to your connections.

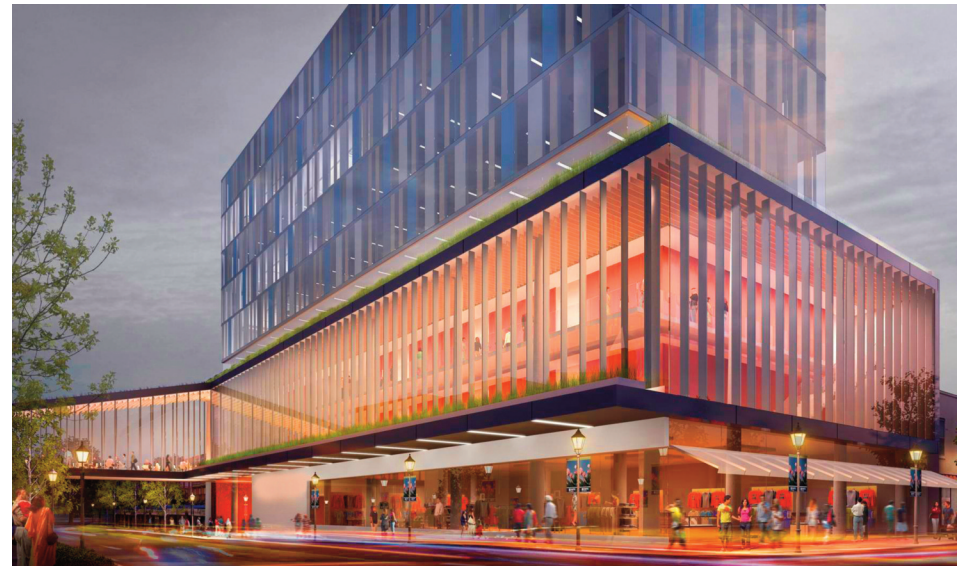
Trademarks 101 (Friday, Mar. 23, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.)

Your brand is your identity. Evaluating brand image and identifying your trademark is a crucial aspect of your business! Learn what you can trademark and how you can use your distinctiveness to increase customer loyalty and provide you an edge over your competition.

Brampton Mastermind Speaker Event: Robert Amante (Tuesday, Mar. 27, 6 - 9 p.m.)

A life-long entrepreneur, Robert Amante believes that aspiring business owners must start with grit and determination, be prepared for change and growth, and craft a system to help them succeed with ease.

Robert started Decorock Inc. with a single small truck and ambition to succeed, and moved from door-to-door sales and projects at-cost to work for some ex-



clusive companies like Ferrari, the Toronto Blue Jays, the Sheraton Hotel, and more.

Market Research 101 (Wednesday, Mar. 28, 2 - 3:30 p.m.)

To run a successful business, it is essential that you know who your customers are, what they need, and how to reach them.

Market research can help you get accurate and specific information about your customers and competitors, which is a critical part of starting or expanding your business.

In Person Webinar:

Image and Branding (Thursday, March 29, 12 - 1:15 p.m.)

Branding is a key component of developing yourself as an artist in today's digital age. It plays a pivotal role in marketing yourself as an artist to your fans, the industry, and your peers.

This webinar will focus on how to develop your brand as an artist, how to properly utilize social media and keep it consistent, and how to get into the world of digital advertising on social media to help promote yourself.

Summer Company Regis-

trations Open

Summer Company provides hands-on business training and mentoring together with awards of up to \$3000 to help enterprising students start up and run their own summer business.

Eligible candidates must be between 15-29 years of age and a student returning to school in the fall of 2018. Registration will be open until May 1.

For more information and to register for any of the programs, visit the BEC website at www.brampton.ca/EN/Business/BEC/.

Brampton Hosts "Reverse Tradeshow" and Seminars For Vendors

The City of Brampton will host a Reverse Tradeshow and seminars on Mar. 22 from 3 - 6 p.m. at City Hall, to help connect vendors with the people, tools and processes for doing business with the City.

Representatives from City divisions will be at tables at the Reverse Tradeshow, to be held in the Conservatory at City Hall. Vendors will have the opportunity to connect with City staff as well as the City's online procurement system provider, BidsandTenders.

Vendors with goods or services they would like to sell to the City of Brampton, but are unsure how to do so, are encouraged to register online on the City website (brampton.ca).

Short seminars regard-

ing how to do business with the City, and how to use BidsandTenders.ca, will run concurrently with the tradeshow, including "How to Do Business with the City" (3:30 - 4 p.m. and 4:30 - 5 p.m.) and "How to submit a Bid via BidsandTenders" seminar, 4 to 4:30 pm and 5 to 5:30 pm



Representatives from many City of Brampton Divisions will be available. This includes Fire & Emergency Services, Recreation, Animal Services, I.T., Building Design & Construction, Transit, Facility Operations and Maintenance, Capital Works, Maintenance Operations and Fleet.

Food Trucks Pilot Project Comes to Mississauga

Mississauga's Parks and Forestry Division is recommending a one-year pilot project which would see food trucks serving hungry residents in nine parks throughout the city.

The pilot would begin on May 1 and continue through Apr. 30, 2019.

Food trucks would be permitted onsite during regular park hours, from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

The nine participating venues include Dunton Athletic Fields (6180 Kennedy Rd.), Erindale Park (1695 Dundas St. W.), Jack Darling Memorial Park (1180 Lakeshore Rd. W.), Max Ward Sports Park (2380 Matheson Blvd.), Meadowvale Sports Park (2255 Meadowvale Blvd.), Mississauga Valley Park (1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd.), Paul Coffey Park (3430 Derry Rd. E.), R.K.

McMillan Park (830 Aviation Rd.) and Syntex Green (2180 Syntex Ct.)

Food trucks are currently restricted to special events within parks throughout Mississauga and four stationary park vendors at Mississauga Celebration Square. In addition, eight hot dog and 14 ice cream vendors are presently permitted in city parks.

The pilot project will give the City an opportunity

to determine if the concept of food trucks are a hit with local residents, in addition to creating jobs, said community services commissioner Paul Mitcham.

A vendor bid package will be released later this month.

One permit per park will be awarded using a lottery process. Potential vendors will need to submit their menu, pricing and estimated foot traffic as part of their lottery submissions.



Mississauga Festival Awarded \$10,000 in Funding from Ontario Arts Council

The Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival is one of several recipients of a recent round of funding from the Ontario Arts Council.

The Mississauga-based festival, which runs yearly in September, was awarded \$10,000 in money late last month to help offer more acts and programming, just in time for its 20th anniversary.

The funding announcement follows a similar announcement in early February, when the festival received an additional \$90,000 was contributed by the City of Mississauga as part of its annual Culture and Community Grants program.

The festival is a non-profit event, with more than 400 volunteers working over three days and the usage of grants and sponsorships to offset the cost.

An average of \$400,000

is spent per year on artists, production and logistics, said festival co-chair Kristine Kane.

"The Festival has positively impacted tourism in the area, as well as providing employment opportunities and promoting audience development & outreach to both the local and artistic community," she said.

The event offers various performance stages & venues. Artists performing on the four stages in Memorial Park are known both in Canada & Internationally.

The programming variety offered includes traditional Blues, Motown, Zydeco, Soul, Funk, Rock-Blues, and Jazz-Blues, as well as multiple venues in Port Credit, including the Rabba Fine Foods Street Shuffle, Beggars Blues Banquet and late night performances.

United Way Receives \$385,000 Donation from Alectra

Alectra Utilities presented United Way with a cheque for more than \$385,180 Friday afternoon to help support the communities in Peel and other regions throughout Southern Ontario.

The announcement was made at Alectra's head office on Friday as part of an official cheque presentation

involving several company officials and representatives from United Way's various branches.

The funds were raised through multiple initiatives Alectra Utilities' employees held throughout 2017, including the company's annual charity golf tournament and an employee driven United Way

campaign, which generated over \$85,000 alone.

Giving back to the communities Alectra serves is an integral part of the company's values, said Alectra Inc. president Brian Bentz.

"As we move forward in building our company, supporting charitable organizations like the United Way will continue to be impor-

tant to our management and staff, Board of Directors and Shareholders," he said during the presentation.

The donation is in addition to a \$90,000 donation which was delivered to the Mississauga Food Bank last month, along with \$15,000 for Peel Children's Centre.



Front (L-R): Mary Thomas, Director Strategic Development, United Way Simcoe County; Raj Chandegra, Manager Resource Development, United Way Peel Region; Brian Bentz, President and CEO, Alectra Inc.; Norm Loberg, Alectra's Board Chair. Back (L-R): Max Cananzi, President, Alectra Utilities; Ciaran McGeown, Manager, Corporate Donor Relations, United Way Toronto & York Region; Christine Lynch, Resource Development Manager, United Way Halton-Hamilton; Bill Schmidt, VP Information Technology and Campaign co-chair (Photo Courtesy of Alectra Utilities)

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